

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- In the main groove 7b having the groove width widened during the inflation, the groove wall  $W_1$  near the center is inclined outward in the tire width direction toward the groove bottom, and the groove wall  $W_2$  near the shoulder is inclined outward in the tire width direction toward the groove bottom. More specifically, as shown in FIG. 3, an inclination angle  $\alpha_1$  of the groove wall  $W_1$  near the center with respect to the tread surface 1a is smaller than  $90^\circ$ , and an inclination angle  $\alpha_2$  of the groove wall  $W_2$  near the shoulder with respect to the tread surface 1a is larger than  $90^\circ$ . Moreover, inside the main groove 7b, the thin rib 9 protruding from the groove bottom is provided so as to be extended in the tire circumferential direction, and the thin rib 9 is constituted to be along the groove wall  $W_2$  near the shoulder while being close thereto. As shown within Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the space 7b between the thin rib 9 and the first groove  $W_1$  wall is larger than a space between the thin rib 9 and the second groove wall  $W_2$ . It is recommended that ~~a~~the space between the thin rib 9 and the groove wall  $W_2$  near the shoulder be set to 4 mm or smaller. --